S H A F T E S B U R Y R U R A L D I S T R I C T
C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1 9 5 3.

Medical Officer of Health -
NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector -
W. E. BREEDS, M.S.I.A.,A.R.San.I.,C.S.I.B.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st May 1954.

To the Chairman and Members
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 & 1951.

The information with regard to climatic conditions on page 2 was kindly provided by Lord Basing.

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Breeds, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, particularly in respect to the sanitary statistics for which he is responsible. I am also indebted to your Waterworks Manager, Mr. Burtt, for his co-operation and his assistance in compiling the sections of this report dealing with the water supplies of the district, and to my clerk, Miss.P.Goddard, for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Stace Masey, and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 3.

A. Area - 42,000 acres.
Rateable Value - £42,886.
Production of a penny rate - £175.8s.6d.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 10,240

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.		Comparative figures (a) Shaftesbury R.D.C.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	88	73	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 15.7	18.5	15.5
Legitimate	82	68			
Illegitimate	6	5			

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	2	3	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 0.5	0.5	0.35

DEATHS.

Total	56	56	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: =10.9	8.61	11.4
Deaths in infants under one year	2	2	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 24.2	24.2	26.8

Deaths from Maternal Causes	-	Nil.
" " Tuberculosis	-	1
" " Cancer of the Lungs	-	6
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	-	19
" " Influenza	-	4
" " Pneumonia	-	7
" " Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
" " All other accidents	-	2
" " Suicide	-	2

Comments.

The birth rate and death rate compare favourably with the corresponding figures for England & Wales as a whole, but four deaths in infants under one year of age is somewhat unsatisfactory.

Eleven illegitimate births occurred in 1953 compared with two in 1952, nine in 1951 and three in 1950.

It is generally recognised that an increasing number of deaths are now occurring from lung cancer, in fact more persons now die from this disease than from tuberculosis. Six deaths from this cause occurred in your district during 1953, four in 1952 and one in 1951. The cases were not related to any particular part of the district.

Climatic Conditions.

The total rainfall recorded at The Malt House, Gillingham, during the year 1953 amounted to 25.09 inches, which is about eight inches below the yearly average for North Dorset. Rain or snow fell on 150 days during the year, the greatest fall during 24 hours being on August 21st when the amount recorded was .97 inches. On no occasion during the year was one inch or more rain recorded in 24 hours.

The Monthly totals were as follows -

January.....	.75	inches.	July.....	3.48	inches.
February.....	1.69	"	August.....	3.06	"
March.....	.70	"	September.....	3.13	"
April.....	2.28	"	October.....	3.69	"
May.....	1.71	"	November.....	1.16	"
June.....	1.92	"	December.....	.82	

Total for the year.....25.09 inches.

From the above, it will be noticed that October was the wettest month of the year for the second year in succession, and March the driest followed closely by January and December. Such a dry December is a most unusual occurence, since it is normally the wettest month of the year. November also, which normally is next to December in rainfall was exceptionally dry being the fourth driest month of the year. Thus it will be seen that the year 1953 has had a rainfall of about 8 inches below the average.

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, continued to be provided by the County Council and I do not consider any comments are called for in respect to these services.

The Laboratory Services, provided by the Salisbury and West Dorset Group Management Committee, have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

W.E.Breeds, M.S.I.A.,A.R.San.I.,C.S.I.B. - Sanitary Inspector.
Lt.Col.T.Sealy Green, M.R.C.V.S. (Part-time for meat inspection only).

Clerical staff - one clerk (full time).

2. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Quantity. No serious shortages of water came to my notice during the year.

(b) Quality. The bacteriological and chemical quality of all the principal supplies remained satisfactory during the year. These are chlorinated. The only supply which remained unsatisfactory was the Bourton Supply. This supply is still used in an unchlorinated condition.

Bacteriological examination of water supplies. The following table gives particulars of the number of samples of water taken (before chlorination) for bacteriological examination, and the results obtained shown in accordance with Ministry of Health classification -

Source of sample.	No. taken.	Results.
Reservoir for Gillingham at Mere	12	All satisfactory.
Boyne Hollow	10	All satisfactory.
Motcombe	14	All satisfactory.
Fontmell Magna Private Supply	6	All satisfactory.
Other supplies	21	15 satisfactory 3 suspect 3 unsatisfactory.

New works carried out during the year. A new 4" main was laid from East Stour Crossroads to Todber as a link main between the existing mains. This new main will provide a continuous supply of water for the Stour Provost and Todber localities, and will overcome the difficulties that have been experienced on several occasions during the past few years, when the main at Stour Row has burst leaving these areas without water until repairs had been carried out. This new main also enables these parishes to be supplied from the reservoir at Bowden, Kington Magna. It can now be stated that these parishes have a very satisfactory and adequate piped supply.

New Connections.

(1) Domestic Supplies - 39
(2) Agricultural Supplies - 29
(3) Supplies for other purposes - 1

These supplies have been made available in the following parishes:-

Parish.	Domestic Supply.	Agricultural.	Other Purposes.
Bourton	2		
Compton Abbas	2	4	
East Stour	2		
Fontmell Magna	6	2	
Gillingham	16	7	
Iwerne Minster	1	2	
Kington Magna	1	4	1
Margarets Marsh		4	
Melbury Abbas	2	1	
Motcombe	3	1	
Stour Provost	2	4	
Sutton Waldron	1		
Todber	1		

Distribution. It is regretted that no up to date information (asked for by the Ministry) is available with regard to the number of houses (and population) in each parish provided with a main supply of water, or by outside standpipes, well, or spring supplies.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Gillingham. Construction work on the proposed sewerage scheme for the built up area of the parish was not commenced during the year, but all work preparatory to a local inquiry by the Ministry concerned was completed.

Post-war Sewerage Schemes. It is regretted that progress cannot yet be made in connection with the proposed sewerage schemes for the smaller parishes. These schemes are essential in rural areas if full advantage is to be taken in connection with the improvement of defective property by the provision of proper sanitary facilities. Such improvements can only be satisfactorily provided, in an area having a clay sub-soil, where efficient parish sewerage schemes are available.

Council House Septic Tanks. The standard of maintenance of the Council house septic tanks and sewerage schemes gave rise to concern during the year in connection with which I submitted a report advocating that the whole of the sewerage schemes for which the Council are responsible should be maintained by one staff under the jurisdiction of the Public Health Committee and that the responsibility for this work should not be shared (as at the present time) by three different Committees. It was, however decided that the present arrangements should continue, but that additional labour should be made available to the Housing Committee during the current financial year in order that more adequate maintenance could be given to the Council house sewerage arrangements.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse and Salvage. The service for the collection of house refuse and salvage has remained the same as in the preceding years. A weekly collection is made in Gillingham and a monthly collection throughout the remainder of the district.

The amount of salvage collected during the year was as follows:-

	t.	c.	q.
Mixed Paper	4	15	0
Cardboard	13	7	2
Newspaper	5	17	0
Books	9	10	2
Rags	2	1	3
Bagging	1	17	2
Heavy Scrap	15	19	0
Bones		11	0
Carpet		2	1
Aluminium		2	1
Brass		1	1
Lead			3
Total Collection -	54.	5.	3.

Income - £305.18s.5d. compared with £636.17s.3d in the preceding year.

(b) Cesspool Emptying. The institution of a cesspool emptying service by the Council was given consideration during the year but it was decided not to institute such a service.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Until adequate parish sewerage schemes can be provided, a gross amount of pollution of streams and ditches in the district cannot be avoided. This type of pollution is present in many parishes in the district. In the past, the provision of these necessary sewerage schemes has been postponed year by year on financial grounds. At the present time, the Government's restriction on capital expenditure is assisting in the avoidance of the financial liability which is increasing year by year, but which will become inevitable sooner or later, to remedy the existing gross nuisances in the parishes concerned.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	28
No. of defects found.	2
No. of notices served	Nil
No. of notices complied with	Nil

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	No. of premises on register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	15	10	2
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	28	1
Total -	49	38	3

	No. of cases in which defects were - Found.	Remedied.	Referred by H.M. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness	1	1	1
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences - Unsuitable or defective	1	1	1
	3	3	3

No. of outworkers = 65

Once again it will be noted that inspection of all the factories on the register was not carried out during the year.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is no swimming bath to which the public have access in the district.

10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS & CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites licensed in the district. Licenses in connection with the occupation of five moveable dwellings were granted during the year.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Disinfestation of six dwellings infested with fleas was carried out during the year. D.D.T. solution was the method employed.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The duties of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District. The number of inspections carried out were 570, treatment being necessary in 427 instances. Inspections on farms totalled 85. 43 cases of infestation were referred to the Joint Committee by the Sanitary Inspector.

A particular factory at Gillingham has proved a considerable problem in respect to rat infestation and concentrated efforts are made to keep the infestation there at a minimum.

13. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the district are registered or licensed under this Act.

14. PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

15. SCHOOLS SANITATION.

Inspection of the school canteens in the district were carried out during the year and were found to be satisfactory.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951.

No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the removal of persons in need of care and attention and living in insanitary conditions.

17. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	185
No. of inspections made	272
No. of informal notices served	74
No. of informal notices complied with	46
No. of statutory notices served	14
No. of statutory notices complied with	12
No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	18
Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -	
(a) Demolition Orders made	9
(b) Undertakings accepted for -	
(i) Closure	6
(ii) Re-conditioning	2

Overcrowding.

No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority	Nil
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	Nil
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
Total No. of houses in the district	2,991

Rural Housing Survey.

Classification.	No. of inspections during 1953		No. of inspections before 1953	
	Prelim.	Detailed.	Prelim.	Detailed.
Cat. 1. Satisfactory	-	-	216	4
" 2. Requiring minor repairs	-	-	501	22
" 3. Requiring minor repairs, alterations or improvement	3	4	629	76
" 4. Appropriate for re-conditioning	7	10	373	107
" 5. Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost	40	36	348	150

Requisitioned premises etc.

Four houses were held under requisition at the end of the year. Four houses on which demolition or closing orders had been made were being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	Temporary Prefab.	Swedish Timber.	Traditional Type.	Other.
During 1953	-	-	82	-
Post-war	-	8	313	44

Total No. of families re-housed during 1953 _____ 124

It will be noted that 82 new Council houses were completed and 124 families were re-housed during the year compared with 48 and 55 respectively during the preceding year. Good progress, therefore, has been made but, unfortunately, the circumstances of many of the 300 applicants on the Council house waiting list at the end of the year are such that the continued provision of new Council houses is still required and additional houses, too, will be required to accommodate persons displaced as a result of slum clearance during the next five years.

Housing Acts 1949 & 1952 - Improvement Grants.

Six applications for Improvement Grants under these Acts were received during the year. In four instances grants were made and in two cases the applications were still under consideration at the end of the year.

18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1 Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949 by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 _____ 3

No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations 1949 _____ 1

No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 _____ 2

No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 _____ 2

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year (by arrangement with the Dorset County Council) -

Tuberculin Tested	36
Accredited	4
Pasteurized	220

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938		55
No. being -	restaurant kitchens	4
	hotel kitchens	5
	food factories	5
No. of such premises inspected		10
No. inspected being -	restaurant kitchens	4
	hotel kitchens	1
	food factories	5
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938		32
No. of such premises registered in respect of -		
(a) Ice-cream	22	
(b) Sausages & prepared meats	10	
No. of premises inspected during the year		32
No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test		11

Grade 1 - 3
" 2 - 3
" 3 - 4
" 4 - 1

During the current year, the regulations made under the Food & Drugs Act 1952 will be promulgated and these still call for more concentrated attention being given by the Sanitary Inspector to the above-mentioned groups of Food Premises than has been given in past years.

Meat Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses. The arrangements for meat inspection at the Bacon Factories in the district remains as before.

Result of Inspection.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Pigs.
Number killed	92,373
Number inspected	23,998
All diseases except Tuberculosis.	
Whole carcase condemned	20
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	Nil
Tuberculosis only.	
Whole carcase condemned	319
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	6,705
Percentage of number slaughtered affected with tuberculosis	7.6

(b) Butchers and other shops.

Quantities condemned:-	Fresh meat	- 567 lbs.
	Canned meat	- 460 "
	Other Foods	- 1,658 ".
		2,685 lbs.

19. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out	1
No. of disinfections carried out	1

20. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	2,127
Total No. of informal notices served	97
Total No. of informal notices complied with	72
Total No. of statutory notices served	18
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	10
No. of prosecutions	1

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence -

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.
Measles	53
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	4
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4
Whooping Cough	19
Scarlet Fever	6
Enteric	1

Tuberculosis.

New Cases Notified.		Deaths.	
Respiratory.	Non.Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non.Respiratory.
2	1	1	-

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON.
Medical Officer of Health.